

Rabbi Judith Schindler Presents Women's Roles in the Hebrew Bible

Statesville - "There are women throughout the Bible who speak out, who use their voices - often at great personal peril - to seek a better life for themselves, others around them, and society." This was one of the many inspirations that Rabbi Judith Schindler shared on February 3, when Congregation Emanuel in Statesville welcomed the community to participate in a discussion entitled "Women's Role in the Hebrew Bible."

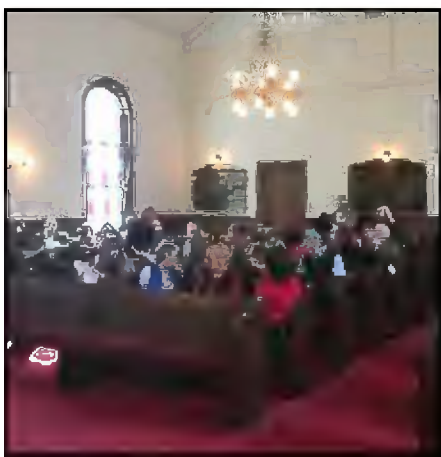
Sponsored by Jewish Council of Lake Norman, Rabbi Judith Schindler, renowned author and educator, and the Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stan Greenspon Cen-

ter for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte, led the interfaith program. Schindler began with a series of thought-provoking questions, including "When you think of women in Judaism/Christianity, what images come to mind?" Answers such as "women seem secondary" and "we don't know the names of Noah's/Lot's wife or Pharaoh's daughter" framed Rabbi Schindler's introduction of two concepts: (1) "invisible women" and (2) "women in power."

As the presentation unfolded, Schindler led the group to understand how two seemingly opposite concepts are connected, and how, in many instances, a woman is simultaneously "invisible" and "in power."

Referencing Judith Plaskow's *Standing Again at Sinai: Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective*, Schindler pointed out Plaskow's assertion that women "were always part of the community as shapers of tradition," and suggested that our job is to think about how we tell and teach history. In the texts, where women are invisible despite their critical roles, it is important to

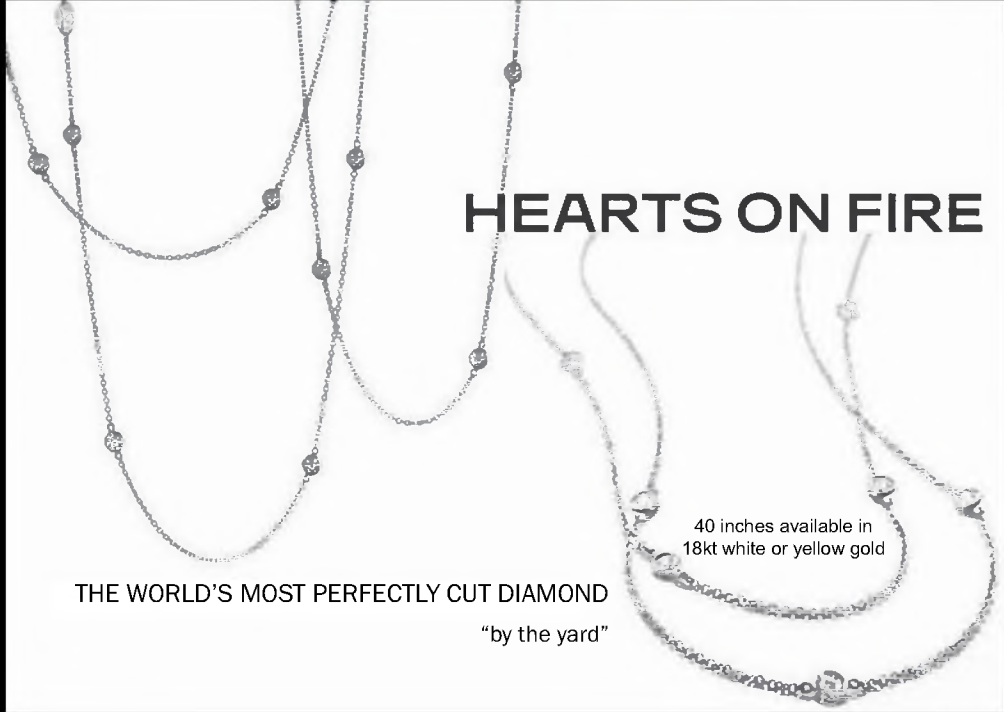
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Rabbi Schindler greets the crowd before the talk begins.

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